

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 SCCT-02 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03 FBIE-00

DRC-01 /114 W

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R 141939Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3250

INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 09576

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CD, GW

SUBJECT: RUPTURE OF FRG-CHAD RELATIONS OVER STAEVEN
CASE

REF: NDJAMENA 151

1. JUNE 14 PRESS REPORTS CHAD GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IN
BREAKING RELATIONS WITH BONN OVER FRG'S HANDLING OF
BARDAI KIDNAPPING CASE WHICH, BECAUSE FRG REPS DEALT
DIRECTLY WITH REBELS, WAS REGARDED BY GOC AS INFRINGE-
MENT OF ITS SOVEREIGNTY. AMBASSADOR SELDIS, ALONG WITH
FOUR MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF, RETURNED TO BONN JUNE 13;
TWO OTHERS WERE LEFT IN N'DJAMENA TO CLOSE EMBASSY.

2. REPORTS STATE THAT FRG MET KIDNAPPERS' DEMANDS BY
(A) PAYING RANSOM OF 200 MILLION CHAD FRANCS (CCA. DM 2
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MILLION) AND (B) BROADCASTING REBELS' PROGRAMMATIC

APPEAL OVER WAVES OF FRG'S FOREIGN BROADCASTING STATION, DEUTSCHE WELLE. THE LATTER ACTION HAS LED TO COMPLAINTS BY EDITORIAL BOARD OF DEUTSCHE WELLE AGAINST GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE WITH THE STATION'S PROGRAMMING AUTONOMY. DEUTSCHE WELLE CHARGES THAT THE FONOFF COMMITTED IT TO MAKE THE BROADCAST (BY IMPLICATION, WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION) AND THUS FORCED ITS HAND.

3. THIS CHARGE APPEARS TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY TRUE. CHIEF EDITOR OF DEUTSCHE WELLE JOHANNES GROSS, CALLED PAO ON JUNE 12 TO ASK FOR US VIEWS ON USE OF GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED RADIO STATION IN THIS MANNER. IN RESPONSE, PAO OUTLINED US POSITION THAT YIELDING TO TERRORIST DEMANDS CAN ONLY ENCOURAGE FURTHER ACTS OF TERRORISM AND POINTED OUT THAT BROADCAST OF THIS KIND, WHILE PERHAPS LESS SERIOUS FROM STANDPOINT OF CONTROLLING TERRORISM THAN, SAY, RELEASING CONVICTED PRISONERS, WOULD NONETHELESS SET UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT. EVIDENTLY, HOWEVER, DEUTSCHE WELLE FELT IT HAD BEEN SO FAR COMMITTED THAT IT HAD TO COMPLY WITH FONOFF'S REQUEST.

4. AS SOON AS DUST HAS SETTLED, WE PLAN TO TALK TO FONOFF, PARTICULARLY DR. WEVER, WHO WAS MAIN FRG NEGOTIATOR, ABOUT HANDLING OF CASE. IT IS ALREADY CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT, AGAINST BACKGROUND OF VON SPRETI CASE AND MUNICH EVENTS OF AUTUMN 1972, FRG ONCE AGAIN TOOK POSITION THAT OVERRIDING REQUIREMENT WAS TO AVOID ANY FURTHER LOSS OF LIFE.
HILLENBRAND

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